

Trident Submarine

24 Missiles

408 Warheads

4000 mile range-- Can hit Soviet Union from inside US territorial waters

Strategies of Nuclear Warfare

Preventive War

A nuclear state gains a temporary advantage in striking power.

Launches a surprise nuclear attack against its disadvantaged enemy to weaken any future threats.

First Strike

A nuclear state launches a surprise nuclear attack to destroy enemy's retaliatory capability.

If first strike capability is perceived by the enemy as not credible it could lead to a preventive war.

Preemptive Strike

A first strike nuclear attack is undertaken by a nuclear state on the assumption that its enemy is planning an imminent nuclear attack.

Preemptive strike attempts to make the enemy's first strike a less effective counterstrike

Steps to Nuclear War

Limited War

An armed conflict fought for objectives less than total destruction or unconditional surrender of the enemy.

Unless one side is willing to accept defeat, limited war could increase in intensity – even nuclear confrontation

Escalation

Move from a limited war to higher intensity.

A country may resort to use of more powerful weapons to achieve victory.

US Troops in Vietnam

1955	342	Geneva accords
1961	700	Eisenhower
1963	16,000	JFK
1964	23,000	JFK
1965	200,000	LBJ
1966	365,000	LBJ
1967	475,000	LBJ
1969	540,000	Nixon

Total War

The use of all means available to achieve victory including nuclear confrontation.

Accidental War

An unintended conflict touched off by incidents caused by human error or mechanical failure.

Accidental delivery of a nuclear weapon

Computer malfunction - \$0.46 chip

Misinterpretation of radar screen reading – moon rising, flock of geese

Attack ordered by an unstable military officer/ elected officials

During Watergate crisis Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger orders all strategic messages to be relayed to him in the event the President calls for an attack.

Broken Arrow

September 1980 Damascus, Arkansas
Strategic missile exploded, but warhead
didn't explode and landed safely in a
nearby forest.

Evidence of at least 32 broken arrows
prior to this one between 1950 and 1980

1979, It took officials 6 minutes to
determine a false alarm

According to *Greenpeace* 50 nuclear
warheads lie on the ocean floors

ICBM & SLBM

ICBM travel time from Soviet Union
to US – 30 minutes

SLBM travel time from territorial
waters – 15 minutes

Only as short time to make a decision
to attack

Determine real or false alarm

During 18 month period in 1978 to 1979, 151 false alarms serious enough to determine source of alert.

US survival depends on fail safe systems of Soviets whose computer technology lags behind ours.

Civil Defense in America

“ Dig a hole, cover it with a couple of doors and then throw three feet of dirt on top... It's the dirt that does it... If there are enough shovels to go around, everybody's going to make it.”

Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Strategic and Theater Nuclear Forces.

F.E.M.A. Federal Emergency Management Agency

Responsible for civil defense in the event of nuclear attack

Massive evacuation of U.S. cities to rural areas

F.E.M.A. budget \$4.2 billion for 7 years

evacuation will take 4-8 days

Monitor Soviet cities evacuation for warning
limit deaths to 50 million instead of 145 million.

Crisis relocation defies human nature

People will not panic

People with odd license numbers will let evens go first

Highways are quick escape routes
(rush hour?)

Rural areas will experience social/racial tensions in host cities/shelters

Only a few weeks before scarcity and fallout will kill in relocation areas